



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

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### ONE SERIOUS MEDIATOR

Evita Perro, aka Ava, is the newest member of the NCM team. And, what an addition she is. She takes her mediation responsibilities very seriously. She is all ears so that she hears what the participants have to say. She refrains from barking at the participants and lets them do the talking. She loves to greet people with her wagging tail. And, if not restrained, she is apt to give kisses as a reward for successful mediations. Actually, Ava belongs to Ben Slocum, Case Manager Kirstyn's special Friend.



### NCM IS IN THE MOVIES

Northern Community Mediation received two grants: one from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the other from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. Both were for the development and production of commercials that would be seen in the Petoskey Cinema and the Charlevoix Cinema. These commercials run prior to the beginning of all movies in both theatres. Presently in the Petoskey Cinema the ad begins with two boys arguing over the controls for a game. The one in Charlevoix starts with a dog burying its head in the sand. It is worth your while to go to the movie theatres to see the commercials. They are cute, entertaining, and deliver a message.

You can see them on our website. Unfortunately, since we have an outdated format for our website, the right-hand side of the screen gets cut off, but you still can get the impact of the ads.

### REMINDER

When a case is ordered to mediation for specific issues, those issues MUST be discussed even if it is simply that the parties ultimately say they do not want to address them, in which case in the agreement it is stated that the topics were brought up and no agreement was made in relationship to those issues.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A group of eavesdroppers is called a heard. ~ Anonymous

### EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIATION VS ADJUDICATION

Northern Community Mediation (NCM) received a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCF) for the purpose of comparing the effectiveness of small claims cases using mediation services vs. adjudicated small claims cases. The study was conducted to ensure a 95% level of confidence with a 5% margin of error.

For mediated cases, 68% of the plaintiffs received payment in full as compared to 22% of the plaintiffs receiving payment in full for adjudicated cases. For mediated cases, 9% of the plaintiffs received no payment, whereas 33% of the plaintiffs received no payment in adjudicated cases. Of the 9%, 2% of non-payment was the result of death or bankruptcy on the part of the defendant.

Partial payment was received by the plaintiffs in 10% of the cases for both mediated cases and adjudicated cases. In 13% of the mediated cases, NCM was unable to contact the plaintiff in order to determine the status of payment. In 35% of the adjudicated cases, contact could not be made with the plaintiff. Of that 35%, it can be said for certain that payment was not received in full because if it had been, the court records would have shown the case as having been dismissed. Therefore, that 35% represents either no payment or partial payment, the former being more likely.

In conclusion, plaintiffs are far more likely to receive payment in full when small claims cases are mediated rather than adjudicated and far less likely not to receive any payment when mediated as opposed to adjudicated.

### ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

The Advanced, Mediator Training from 8:00am to 5:00pm on Friday, September 23 has been confirmed. Registration information is available on the NCM website at <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/>. The topic is "Writing an Effective and Enforceable Agreement." It will be held at the Bay View Inn. This is a SCAO approved training.

### THREE USELESS FACTS

The annual production of bubble gum is about 100,000 tons.

The chances of making two holes-in-one in a round of golf are one in 67 million.

Male skunks are called bucks and female skunks are called does.